



**HELPING
POLLUTERS**



Victoria's **DESALINATION PLANT**

~~3.2 Billion~~
\$ 4.8 Billion
OF YOUR MONEY

\$500 each year in your water bills

State Government won't build it themselves so they don't have to pay for it, or take the environmental responsibility

Profit and Politics come before the Planet !

Questions of the banks corporate and moral responsibility remain unanswered

- see over for more detail on the banks involvement and obligations

Unnecessary marine pollution.

Better alternatives would reduce existing pollution going into the sea



DESAL



900,000 tonnes unnecessary carbon emissions annually

The desal is huge, supplying 1/3 of all our water, so no sustainable alternatives will happen!

Ring NAB - 1300 889398 or Westpac - 132032 to express your concerns, ask for their corporate responsibility officer
Or write them a letter, suggestions and mailing addresses
at: www.watershedvictoria.org.au

The banks say they follow a set of social and environmental investment guidelines known as the 'Equator Principles', and they show us TV ads indicating that they are doing just that. How serious are they about investing our money in ways we would approve of ?

Equator Principle 2: Social and Environmental Assessment

"For all medium or high risk projects (Category A and B projects), sponsors complete an Environmental Assessment....which must address key environmental and social issues".

The desalination project:

- Uses enormous energy compared to other water options, increasing demand in Victoria by 2%, equivalent to 330,000 more cars on our roads.
- Is dramatically larger than most others worldwide (2nd largest) - greater impacts.
- Is in a non-industrialised rural & small town area with sensitive social issues.
- Is in an environmentally significant location (wetland of national importance, RNE listing, proximity to coastal and marine parks).
- It will have diverse AND multiple severe impacts (marine outfall, poor flushing, pipe and power line easements, amenity and social traumas).

Equator Principle 3: Applicable Social and Environmental Standards

"The Environmental Assessment addresses baseline environmental and social conditions, ... sustainable development and use of renewable natural resources, protection of ... endangered species and sensitive ecosystems, participation of affected parties in the design, review and implementation of the project, consideration of feasible environmentally and socially preferable alternatives, efficient production, delivery and use of energy, pollution prevention and waste minimization, pollution controls (liquid effluents and air emissions) and solid and chemical waste management."

The Banks are relying on the flawed State Government Environmental Study & related enquiries; do you believe these satisfy Equator Principle No.3 ?

- Failed to compare with environmentally / socially preferable alternatives.
- It did not "satisfactorily address key environmental and social issues" such as baseline studies, choice of site and a climate change effects comparison of alternatives.
- It ignored evidence of habitat significance for whales and other endangered species (e.g. Southern Right Whales, Humpback Whales).
- Land acquisition processes without notice or consultation, procrastinated 2 years but then shortcut as "urgent" (e.g. waving the usual time frame for notification).
- Cumulative impacts of the project over time, and with other existing and future projects.
- The bank's "Independent Review" appears to have considered only the legality of the proponent's Environmental Assessment rather than a genuine review of the environmental and social effects of the plant as required by the EP's.